

Northam Town Council – Minutes of a meeting of the Town Council held on Wednesday 25th July 2018 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Windmill Lane, Northam commencing at 7.00 pm

Present: Cllrs Davis (Chairman), Mrs Whittaker, Rev Arnold, Berryman, Brading, Eastman, Edwards, Hames, Hancock, Himan, Laws, Leather and Sherborne
In attendance: Mrs M J Mills, Town Clerk,
Members of the public

1807/245 Apologies
Apologies were recorded on behalf of Cllr Tisdale

1807/246 Chairman's Announcements

- The insignia is on schedule to be delivered during the first week of August.
- Members were advised that the Devon Rural Housing Partnership would like to meet with the Town Council to discuss funding for community led housing following a nationwide £163 million that has been made available by the Government. Members agreed to invite the Rural Housing Enabler and Cllr Mrs Whittaker suggested that the Town Clerk speaks to Rachel Webdell at Torrridge District Council.
- The Mayor also reminded Councillors to contact the Assistant Town Clerk as soon as possible in response to their invitations to attend the Civic Church Service.

Action Point – Speak to Torrridge and invite Rural Housing Enabler to meet with the Town Council.

1807/247 Declarations of interest
Members were reminded that all interests must be declared prior to the item being discussed.

1807/248 To agree the agenda between Part A and Part B (confidential information)
It was proposed by Cllr Brading, seconded by Cllr Leather, that agenda items 24 and 25 be moved to Part A. The vote was 3 in favour with a majority against.
A vote was then taken to **resolve** to agree the agenda.
Proposed by Cllr Berryman, Seconded by Cllr Hancock (majority in favour, 2 votes against)

1807/249 To confirm and sign the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 27th June 2018
It was **resolved** to confirm and sign the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 27th June as a correct record.
Proposed: Cllr Hancock, Seconded: Cllr Sherborne (majority in favour 2 abstentions, not present at the meeting)

1807/250 To note and adopt the reports of minutes and resolutions contained therein from Committees and Sub-Committees (Items contained in Part B to be considered under Part B)

- Planning – 27th June 2018
- Town Projects – 2nd July 2018
- Northam Burrows – 9th July 2018
- Planning – 11th July 2018
- Finance – 16th July 2018

It was **agreed** to note and adopt the reports of minutes and resolutions.

- 1807/251 Action Points**
It was **agreed** to note the Action points.
- 1807/252 To receive and consider reports from the Town Clerk**
It was **agreed** to note the reports.
- 1807/253 To receive a Police Report**
No Police were present
- 1807/254 To receive questions and/or deputations or petitions from parishioners. All deputations or petitions to be referred without discussion to the Clerk for action, or to the next Council meeting for discussion as appropriate. Any question requiring an answer at the meeting to be submitted at least five working days before the meeting to the Town Council office.**
No questions had been received.
- 1807/255 Public Participation**
Members of the public are permitted to make representations answer questions and give evidence in respect of any item of business included in the agenda. Each member of the public is entitled to speak once only in respect of business itemised on the agenda and shall not speak for more than 3 minutes. The period of time which is designated for public participation in accordance with standing orders shall not exceed fifteen minutes.
No members of the public wished to speak
- 1807/256 To receive recommendations from the Northam Burrows Committee;**
- It was **resolved** that subject to Torridge seeing the charity scheme, Members recommend to Full Council to proceed with the formal registration of the Charity.
 - It was **resolved** to recommend to Full Council that dogs on leads only at Northam Burrows should be recommended to Torridge. Members asked that a map be produced showing areas that dogs are allowed off leads at the present time. (Cllr Laws) (*map herewith showing the only area where dogs currently need to be on leads*)
- With regard to the Charity scheme it was **resolved** to defer this matter to the next meeting.
Proposed: Cllr Mrs Whittaker, Seconded: Cllr Sherborne (all in favour)
Action Point - Place item on next agenda.
- With regard to the dogs on leads Cllr Laws advised that he had spoken with Janet Williams at Torridge who is overseeing the Dog Control Orders. She was under the impression that Northam Burrows was a Country Park but he had advised her that it is, and has been, a grazing common since the middle ages.
It was **resolved** to invite Janet Williams to the next Full Council meeting.
Proposed: Cllr Laws, Seconded: Cllr Brading (majority in favour, 1 abstention)
Action Point – Invite Janet Williams to next Full Council meeting.
- 1807/257 To receive an update on the Neighbourhood Plan**
Cllr Leather explained that there are now three working groups meeting in their groups to discuss draft policies. The next full Steering Group meeting is August 13th. However, Cllr Leather's group will be meeting on 30th July. Cllr Hames' Group which includes Cllr Arnold and Nick Arnold, had already had two meetings.

- 1807/258 To consider a request from a volunteer to obtain work experience in our office**
It was **resolved** to give this lady work experience, one day a week as a volunteer.
Proposed: Cllr Sherborne, Seconded: Cllr Leather (all in favour)
Action Point – Advise volunteer.
- 1807/259 To consider correspondence to include**
- **Letter from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner** (*sent by email 4/7/2018*)
It was **resolved** that individuals should respond to the survey.
Proposed: Cllr Hames, Seconded: Cllr Edwards (all in favour)
 - **Letter from Town Clerk Barnstaple re North Devon Record Office** (*sent by email 18/07/2018*) *formal request for your district/town/parish council to consider by September 2018 (a) a funding contribution towards the seven-month short-term agreement from April 2019 and (b) an annual funding contribution towards the five-year agreement to run from the expiry of the seven-month agreement.*
Members were advised that the Council had recently moved a reserve, held towards a contribution to the North Devon Record Office, to grants. As the funding request will not be commencing until April 2019, followed by a five-year agreement, the money currently in grants could remain there and funding contributions built into the budget for next year.
It was **resolved** to support the funding contributions.
Proposed: Cllr Leather, Seconded: Cllr Brading (all in favour)
 - **Letter from Devon and Cornwall re “Snow Heroes” sent to Dean Stewardson** - correspondence was noted.
Action Point – include in the budget
- 1807/260 To receive an update on the May Fair 2018**
Cllr Brading raised a query as to when he needs to bring items regarding the organisation to Full Council. He particularly raised the issue of the purchase of a marquee. After some discussion he was thanked for his work and advised that there was no criticism of it. It was then **resolved** that the full figures for the 2018 event, when completed, should be used to create a budget for the future.
Proposed: Cllr Himan, Seconded: Cllr Hames (all in favour)
- 1807/261 To consider contract renewal from Ellis Whittam and alternative with SW Councils**
It was **resolved** to defer this item to a Special Meeting and that it should be held in Part B.
Proposed: Cllr Brading, Seconded: Cllr Hames (all in favour)
Action Point – Set up Special Meeting
- 1807/262 To consider renewal of our membership with Devon Communities Together at a cost of £50 p.a.**
It was **resolved** to accept the renewal
Proposed: Cllr Brading, Seconded: Cllr Edwards (all in favour)
Action Point – Accept renewal

1807/263

Street Matters

- Devon County Council – A39 Torridge Bridge – Temporary prohibition of through traffic, temporary suspension of parking and temporary speed limit. From Monday 17th September 2018 and Friday 21st December 2018 – temporary speed limit of 20mph (24hrs). Sunday 21st October 19.00 to Monday 22nd October 06.30 – road closed. This is to enable replacement of expansion joints.

The Mayor reminded Members to forward individual complaints to Devon County Council.

1807/264

Summary Report from a District Member

Cllr Davis advised that Torridge had recently agreed to take asylum seekers from Syria. Cllr Mrs Whittaker advised that the funding for it is poor and there is a shortage of accommodation in the area. She recently attended a meeting regarding the link road and the improvements are proceeding. There will be traffic lights installed at Buckleigh Road junction and work is progressing to improve the Heywood Road roundabout. She has also attended a meeting to look at finance regarding the skate park in Bideford which will be greatly enhanced.

1807/265

Report from County Councillor

Cllr Eastman advised that he had attended the recent HATOC meeting (report attached). His County report is attached. He also spoke about a £900,000 allocation to a ditch clearing project.

Cllr Laws raised the problems of Avon Lane and Beach Road and questioned the delay in the work being completed. Cllr Eastman asked that the Town Clerk write to Highways about these two roads.

Members asked for clarification with regard to the proposals for the Jackets Lane crossing as they had been advised previously that Devon County council was waiting to purchase adjacent land.

Members also requested that there should be some signage relating to pedestrians crossing the A39 at the Heywood Road roundabout. It was pointed out that as Devon County Council had appointed SKANSKA they had responsibility to ensure that work is completed.

Cllr Leather also raised the issue of Raleigh Hill where repairs had been promised to be completed by March but still remain outstanding.

Cllr Mrs Whittaker advised that she had been unable to go to the recent HATOC meeting but her Deputy had attended and said it was one of the most frustrating meetings that he been to.

Cllr Davis raised a Health and Safety issue with Cllr Eastman regarding the crossing patrol lady at Appledore who has been out of action for a number of months and not been replaced. He requests a resolution by the start of the new term.

Action point- write to DCC re road surfaces

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.20 pm.

Signed..... **Dated**.....

DRAFT